9. Special provisions have been sought to be made for controlling saw milling, processing of certain types of forest produce, possession trade and processing of sandal wood and red-sanders, etc.

10. Specific provisions have been proposed stipulating that the Government forests shall be managed only in accordance with approved management plans. Government of India has been given certain powers to oversee the enforcement of the proposed Act. Government of India has also been given powers to issue certain directions to the States for example asking them to notify certain forest areas as reserved forests, enforcement of certain types of land use practices in areas under shifting cultivation, preparation and revision of working plans.

11. Suitable provisions have been proposed stipulating that denotification of a reserved forest is compensated by notifying an equal area as reserved forest elsewhere in the State. status of protected forests is reviewed every 10 years and suitable areas out of these to be notified as reserved forests.

12. Encroachments on forest lands not to be regularised by executive orders without a motion to that effect being adopted by the Parliament; etc.

13. Penal provisions of the existing Act are being made more stringent. Some of the offences, particularly those involving forest produce valued at more than Rs. 10,000/- would lead to higher punishment. Some of the offences have been made non-bailable and in some cases a minimum mandatory imprisonment under section 78 has been provided. Special provision has been provided for preventing corrupt practices by forest and other officials charged with responsibilities of forest production.

14. Procedures under the Act have been comprehensively amended. Forest officials are empowered to confiscate tools, equipments, machinery, plants, vehicles, etc. involved in forest offences. Inter-departmental cooperation has been made mandatory for prevention and detection of forest offences.

15. The final draft of the proposed amendment is under consideration.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research

*273. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has land assets of 80,000 hectares in the country at present and has to depend upon Government for its annual expenditure of Rs. 800 crore;

(b) whether a parallel organization viz. C S I R generates 40 percent of its budget from its own resources;

(c) whether the Government are also contamplating to bring ICAR gradually on the same pattern;

(d) whether any action plan has been developed in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has land assets of about 19500 hectares at present. ICAR has to depend upon Government for its annual expenditure which in 1996-97 is estimated at Rs. 529.30 crores both Plan and Non-Plan put together.

(b) No Sir. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) however indicated that about 26% of their total budget is generated from their own resources.

(c) ICAR realises the immediate importance of self support to the extent possible.

(d) and (e) The ICAR had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.S. Johl to suggest ways and means of mobilisation of resources and improvement of internal resource generation capability. The Committee has since submitted its report and action is initiated. The recommendations in respect of contract service, consultancy, training and contract research are under active consideration in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Production of Pyrazinamide

*274. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of Pyrazinamide in the country during the last three years;

(b) the total annual demand thereof;

(c) the manner in which its shortfall is made good;

(d) the per unit cost of production of Pyrazinamide and its market price;

(e) whether the selling price of this drug is controlled; and

(f) the steps being taken to boost the production of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) Pyrazinamide is produced in the Small Scale Sector as well as in the Organised Sector. Monitoring is done of the production in the Organised Sector only. As per the available information, the production during the

last three years in the Organised Sector has been as under :

1993-94	-	47.02 Tonnes
1994-95	-	49.40 Tonnes.
1995-96	-	83.93 Tonnes

(b) The Working Group on Drugs and Pharmaceuticals for the Ninth Five Year Plan period has estimated demand to be as follows

1996-97	-	275 MT
1997-98	-	303 MT
1998-99	-	333 MT
1999-2000	-	366 MT
2000-01	-	403 MT
2001-02	-	443 MT

(c) Pyrazinamide is under OGL as per the Export and Import Policy. Shortfall if any can be met through imports. However, imports have been negligible and almost the entire demand of this drug is met through indigenous production.

(d) to (f) As per the earlier DPCO the last notified price of Pyrazinamide was Rs. 1679/- per Kg vide notification dated 25.11.93. As per DPCO, 1995 it is outside the purview of price control. Also this drug is delicensed, vide Press Note No. 4 (1994 series) dated 25.10.94 consequent to announcement of "Modifications in Drug Policy, 1986" in September, 1994.

Inclusion of more Castes in OBCs

*275. SHRI A.C. JOS
SHRI DATTA MEGHE

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Cabinet has taken any decision to appoint another Commission for examining the claims of some communities for inclusion in the OBCs list;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a Commission would be set up to consider the requests of other communities for the said purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Mangrove Forests

*276. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the area covered under the mangrove forests in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have prepared any action plan for the protection and improvement of the mangrove forests in the country;

(c) if so, the salient features thereof;

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to protect and improve the mangrove forests; and

(e) the funds allocated to the States for the purpose during each of the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) As per the State of Forest Report (1995), mangroves cover an area of 4,533 sq. kms. in the country. The State-wise break-up of mangrove areas is given in Statement-I.

(b) to (d) A centrally sponsored scheme on Conservation and Management of Mangroves was initiated during 1985-86 and is being continued during VIII Five Year Plan. A national Committee on Wetlands, Mangroves and Coral Reefs advises the Government on policy guidelines, identification of mangroves for intensive conservation, monitoring, preparation of management action plans and for research activities. Under the scheme, 15 mangrove areas have been selected on priority basis for intensive conservation and management purposes. Management action plans have been drawn up for the identified mangrove areas. The activities under the management action plan include survey and demarcation, natural regeneration, afforestation, nursery development, protection measures, education and awareness.

The network of Protected Areas consisting of national parks, sancturies and biosphere reserves also includes mangroves within their boundaries depending upon the location.

(e) A Statement showing funds provided to the State Governments during last three years under the centrally sponsored scheme on Conservation and management of Mangroves, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries, Project tiger and Biosphere Reserves is given in Statement-II.

STATEMENT-I

State-wise break-up of Mangrove areas as per the State of Forest Report, 1995

		Area (in sq. km.)
1	Andhra Pradesh	383
2	Goa	3
3	Gujarat	689
4	Maharashtra	155
5	Orissa	195
6	Tamilnadu	21
7	West Bengal	2119
8	Andaman and Nicobar	966
9	Karnataka	2
		4533